



## MISSOURI SENATE

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# Senator John Cauthorn Supports Efforts To Promote Pledge, Ten Commandments

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JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, today announced his unqualified support for efforts underway around the nation to incorporate the Pledge of Allegiance in schools and to prominently display the Ten Commandments in public places.

“Openly, willingly, acknowledging and displaying an allegiance to God and country is a fundamental right of all people and an inherent right of those in a free democracy such as America,” Cauthorn said. “The act of doing either or both should not be hindered, and in fact should be encouraged at every opportunity.”

The ability to recite the Pledge in the classroom has come under fire in California and in Colorado where courts have indefensibly ruled for petitioners who feel the words are either unconstitutional or offensive.

“How an oath of national loyalty and pride can be offensive I don’t know, and I’ll never understand how the Pledge’s recitation runs against the Constitution,” said Cauthorn, who last year supported a bill asking that the Pledge be recited at least once a week in Missouri public schools. “And, as this *is* a democracy, saying the Pledge is not mandatory. It’s just an opportunity for school children to learn the value of allegiance – a lesson in civics that will stick with them for the rest of their lives.”

Displaying the Ten Commandments has come under fire in Alabama, where the state's chief Supreme Court justice is in the fight of his life working to keep a large monument depicting the word of God in the lobby of the judiciary building.

"I find all these legal challenges to the Pledge, and especially the legal battle over the Ten Commandments, very ironic as no law of man would ever have been written were it not for Moses first receiving the law of God," said Cauthorn, who noted a similar monument sits on the grounds of Missouri's capitol building.

"I sincerely hope we don't experience the same unsavory legal wrangling here in Missouri and I really believe in my heart that we won't," Cauthorn said. "Missourians know that our society is only as good as the collective character of our people. And Missourians know that learning, knowing and reciting the Ten Commandments and the Pledge of Allegiance is a great start to building unimpeachable character."

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